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Preface

This special issue includes 16 selected papers from the Track A in the 31st. International Colloquium on Automata Languages and Programming (ICALP 2004) held in July 2004 in Turku, Finland. The papers were selected on the basis of their originality, quality, and relevance to the broad spectrum of modern developments in the topics of track A.

ICALP is the Annual Conference of the European Association for Theoretical Computer Science (EATCS). In the year 2004, ICALP was co-located with the ACM conference Logics in Computer Science (LICS). The conferences provided a unique opportunity to witness the recent advances in a wide spectrum of the research in theoretical computer science.

The proceedings of ICALP 2001 were published in the series Lectures Notes in Computer Science (vol. 3142) of Springer-Verlag. All papers selected for this special issue were revised and extended by the authors and refereed again, following the standards of the journal. We are grateful to the referees and to the authors for their excellent efforts that led to the final versions now appearing in this issue.

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